



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC TO HOLD LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING IN AURORA ON WATER RATE REQUEST FILED BY THE EMPIRE DISTRICT ELECTRIC COMPANY

JEFFERSON CITY—The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a local public hearing in **Aurora, Missouri, on January 11, 2006** to receive customer comment on a water rate request filed by The Empire District Electric Company.

The local public hearing schedule appears below:

January 11, 2006*

Aurora

City Hall

City Council Chambers

2 West Pleasant

***The PSC Staff will hold an information session and answer questions from the public from 5:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The local public hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. It will continue until every member of the public has had an opportunity to testify, or until 8:00 p.m., whichever is earlier.**

Local public hearings are designed to give customers of the company an opportunity to comment on the rate request currently before the Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the Commission's attention.

The local public hearing will be held in a facility that meets the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in the hearing should call the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

The Empire District Electric Company is seeking to increase water revenues by approximately \$469,000. For a residential customer using approximately 6,000 gallons a month, water rates would increase from \$22.52 a month to \$30.62 a month under the company's request.

The Empire District Electric Company serves approximately 4,580 water customers in the communities of Aurora, Marionville and Verona.